

Elise finley

Arrive alive

### **3:50pm October 31st 2023**

Today is the day I'm going to tell him I love him. Sitting in the starbucks drive through with a full tank of gas and my window down listening to *Is It Over Now?* by Taylor Swift as it just came out a week prior. It was a good day. Now I'm not really sure if it was ACTUALLY a good day or if I was just happy because I was going over to my ex's house. I was building up the courage to tell him how much I missed him and loved him when I saw him. I pulled out of Starbucks and started driving towards Portland.

### **4:05pm October 31st 2023**

I woke up. Everything was blurry, my ears were ringing, I heard crying. I had no idea what just happened to me until I touched my forehead and saw glass shards on my hands and blood dripping down my face like sweat. An older man who lived in the apartments near where I crashed came out and was reaching through the window to try and wipe my face but the blood wouldn't stop. *I need my mom, I thought* while trying to find my phone. When I found my phone I didn't even think to call 911. I just needed my mom.

### **4:32pm October 31 2023**

The paramedics were holding my neck for me while putting a neck brace on, I was loaded into a stretcher and taken into the ambulance. On my way to Maine Medical center I couldn't do

anything but worry, *Was I going to die? Why did this happen? Whose fault was this? Why does my head hurt so bad?* These were all questions circling my mind while I was just hoping to be ok. The paramedic in the ambulance with me warned me when we got to the ER it was going to be overwhelming.

### **5:00 pm October 31st 2023**

Arriving at the hospital all I wanted to do was cry and sleep. All I could think about is why would this happen to me, All because someone else was distracted driving they almost killed me. I can't believe that I was in an accident. It all felt so unreal and quick. It was halloween. Why? All I wanted to know was why.

### **7:00 pm October 31st 2023**

They finally let me go to sleep and started talking about sending me home. One thing I learned from this is that distracted driving is not ok in any way, and sometimes it takes an accident like this or your friend getting into one to open your eyes and realize you need to take driving seriously. Your life is not a game, don't play it.